

Tale *Feathers*

October
2007

Volume 74
Number 7

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Message

October-November
Bird walk and trip
info

Annual
Honeysuckle Pull
in Forest Park Info

....and MORE!!

Be sure to visit our
website to
get any new info
after publication.

Belize & Guatemala Adventure

Tuesday, October 16th
Powder Valley Nature Center

In February 2007, Mike Grant and Susan Eaton embarked on a tropical birding adventure to Belize and Guatemala with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The expedition took them to La Milpa, Lamanai, Dangriga and South Water Caye in Belize, and Tikal in Guatemala. From long hikes through tropical forests and a half-day slosh through the mud at a wildlife sanctuary to exploration of Mayan ruins and a night-time truck safari, the birds were everywhere! Susan and Mike observed almost 200 species, including keel-billed toucans, scarlet macaws, and a variety of parrots, trogons, kingfishers, woodpeckers and hummers. Susan and Mike will share stories and photos from their trip. Whether you're thinking about going there, have already been or simply haven't found a bird you didn't LOVE—you'll surely enjoy the program!



Susan Eaton began her life as a birder in 1999 courtesy of a friend and a St. Louis Audubon bird walk in Forest Park. She counts both Jim Malone and Paul Bauer as major influences, especially in helping her get "hooked." Susan and her husband travel quite frequently out of the country. In fact, her Ecuador bird list outnumbers her US list. A bird watcher for many years, Mike Grant became interested in digiscoping when Jim Malone demonstrated the technique of taking a picture through a telescope with a digital camera. Mike has since built several custom mounts that enable him to use his telescope for both viewing and photographing birds. Mike's photos have appeared in several Missouri publications, including the Missouri Conservationist.

The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center. Please bring a friend as the program is free to all. From the intersection of Interstates 44 & 270, take Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn north on Geyer for 200 yds. to Cragwold Rd. Go west on Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature center entrance on right. Follow drive to parking lot. Enter building through left entrance.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Opportunities

and

Announcements

Mission Statement
of
The St. Louis
Audubon Society

Help our community
sustain biological
Diversity through
Nature.

Goals
To foster an
awareness and
understanding
of birds and other
wildlife and their
habitats

To educate our
community so
people can make
informed decisions
about the natural
world.

AUDUBON SOCIETY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The St. Louis Audubon Society announces a training class that is starting up for their speaker's bureau in their elementary education program. The speakers will be available free to schools and will cover topics ranging from birds to bats to plants.

"We are truly excited about this program. Environmental education is a big part of what Audubon is all about and what better place to start than at the elementary level,"
said local chapter president,
Torrey Berger.

St. Louis Audubon Society, with 2,200 members, has a local focus on education, conservation and habitat restoration. It annually participates in Operation Clean Stream, conducts monthly general interest meetings, bird walks and song and shore bird habitat reclamation and restoration.

Applications are now being accepted for the January, 2008 class. Training will be a total of 10 hours.
Call Vicki Flier for applications or more information at 314-968-9166.

Walks in Forest Park

St. Louis Audubon Society Board Members, Lynne Breakstone and Jim Wilson, will continue to lead beginning bird walks on the first Saturday of every month. As long as the weather stays warm enough, walks will be

outdoors; we will meet in front of the Education and Visitor Center (5595 Grand Dr.) at 8:30, and we will bird for approximately 2 hours. Kindly RSVP to Anne Grossman at (314) 367-7275, ext. 14 or email to

agrossmann@forestparkforever.org.

Dates for Sept/Oct are Sat. Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1.

All ages and birding levels welcome.

Binoculars Wanted

The Saint Louis Audubon Society is partnering with Birders' Exchange, a nonprofit organization that helps get equipment for ornithological field research to scientists in Central and South America. We are looking for donations of new and used waterproof binoculars and scopes, tripods, backpacks, and field guides covering South America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Donations can be given to any Saint Louis Audubon field trip leader, or can be dropped off at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri. If you have any questions about making a donation please call Eric Jeltz 314-210-3404.

October and November

Bird Walks & Trips

John Solodar

October 13, Saturday – Two Rivers/Riverlands/Confluence.

This trip is structured for flexibility. The leader, Mike Thelen, will be going all day and you are invited to be there with him. However, if you are inclined to do only part of the trip you can do that easily as well. We'll start at 8:00 AM at the Gilbert Lake parking lot just north of the Brussels Ferry in Illinois. Bring your lunch as there is a good chance of eating on the porch at the Two Rivers Headquarters building while watching the pond below and the lake in the distance. With luck the building will be open as well.

October 24, Wednesday – Busch Conservation Area/Weldon Springs – This will be the first of our Wednesday birding trips this season to accommodate those who like weekday birding.

Pat Lueders will be our leader and the trip will start at 8:00

AM. There will be lots of fall migrants to see in the Busch/Weldon Spring area and the weather should be ideal at this time of year.

November 3, Saturday – Horseshoe Lake area – Paul Bauer will lead this trip to Horseshoe Lake and some surrounding areas. We'll hope to find various ducks, gulls, wintering sparrows and whatever else may be coming through. We'll start at 8:00 AM for this half day trip.

November 10, Saturday – All day trip to central Missouri led by Pat Lueders. Details will appear in the next Talefeathers.

November 14, Wednesday – This will be the second of our Wednesday trips this season. Torrey Berger and John

Solodar will co-lead this one which will take place at Riverlands starting at 9:00 AM. This will also feature a

BEGINNERS section that will go off on its own, separate from the main trip. Expect a lot of ducks, swans, gulls and other birds.

November 17, Saturday – Busch/Weldon Spring - Mike Thelen and John Solodar will co-lead this trip that starts at 8:00 AM. We hope for an infusion of winter migrants, especially waterfowl and sparrows, maybe some nuthatches and purple finches as well. This trip is designed to last until noon or so, but Mike, especially, likes to go much longer so being lunch if you want to continue on with him. If you have to leave early that's OK too.

How to get there

Two Rivers NWR- Take Hwy 367 north from I-270 as if going to Riverlands. The designation changes to Hwy 67 after a while, but continue straight ahead. Take Hwy 67 over the Clark Bridge into Alton IL. Go left on Route 143 at the end of the bridge and left again at the intersection with Route 100. Follow Route 100 upriver through Grafton. Meet in the Gilbert Lake parking lot just north of the Brussels Ferry.

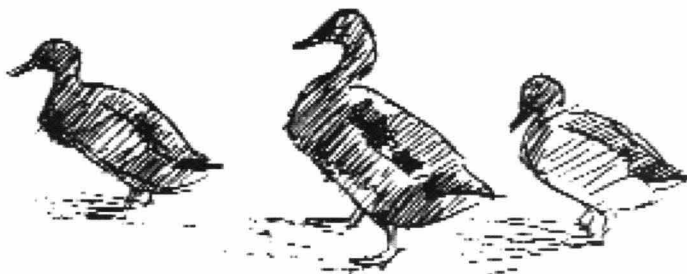
Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to the traffic light at Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across Poplar Street ridge. Exit at Highway 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go north a few miles to the Horseshoe Lake State Park entrance (on left). Meet at the first parking lot on the right.

Riverlands – From the northern loop of I-270 take Hwy 367 north. The designation changes to Hwy 67 after a while, but continue straight ahead. Take Hwy 67 to the last exit before the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River. Turn right here past the Fisca station and take the next right, Wise Rd, to the parking lot next to Teall Pond.

BEGINNERS BIRDING TRIP

Many of you have asked for beginner's birding trips that will be separate from the trips with more experienced birders. Our trip on Saturday, November 14 is designed for you. Show up at Riverlands at 9:00 AM and we will have a leader for a separate trip just for you. See the list of trips for directions.



Missouri Seeks Additional Wilderness Area Designations

- Sue Gustafson, Conservation Committee

The St. Louis Audubon Society is one of nineteen conservation organizations to endorse a proposal that seeks designation of seven areas in Missouri as federal Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas. In 1964, Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System that serves to protect designated federal lands as wild and free, and as close as possible to their condition when our country was founded.

In the 1970's, under the leadership of a group called the **Missouri Wilderness Coalition (MWC)**, a broad-based campaign was undertaken to explore, define, and promote the remaining remnants of wilderness on the federal lands of Missouri, primarily in the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF). The campaign identified thirteen areas on the MTNF, plus Mingo Creek on the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. Between 1976 and 1984 Mingo Wilderness, plus seven of the MTNF areas — Hercules Glade, Bell Mountain, Rockpile Mountain, Piney Creek, Devil's Backbone, Paddy Creek, and the Irish Wilderness — were designated by Congress as federal Wilderness Areas. These eight areas total 86,000 acres and have proven to be a major asset to Missouri.

The remaining seven areas have been managed under Forest Service guidelines, and the Forest Service has referred to these areas as the "Seven Sensitive Areas". Their integrity has been left substantially undisturbed, and additional information has been developed that confirms and reinforces their value as wilderness. In the development of the most recent Forest Plan for the MTNF, it became evident that administrative provisions were no longer adequate to protect the qualities of these seven areas, and the information base was now strong enough to move forward with legislation to formally designate and protect them. Therefore, the Missouri Wilderness Coalition is gearing up efforts to propose to Congress that four of the areas be immediately designated as federal Wilderness Areas, and three of them as federal Wilderness Study Areas.

For Wilderness designation:

Big Spring , in Carter County	7,600 acres
North Fork , in Ozark, Howell, and Douglas Counties	7,200 acres
Spring Creek , in Douglas and Howell Counties	6,400 acres
Swan Creek , in Christian County	9,200 acres

For Wilderness Study Area designation:

Lower Rock Creek , in Madison and Iron Counties	13,800 acres
Smith Creek , in Callaway and Boone Counties	2,500 acres
Van East Mountain , in Madison and Iron Counties	2,500 acres

The proposals for immediate Wilderness Area designation have proven to be qualified and ready for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposals for Wilderness Study Area status are also qualified, but there remain minor issues to be resolved related to private inholdings, rights of way, and final boundary determination; these three areas should remain fully protected by the Forest Service as if they were wilderness until and unless Congress should decide to change their designations.

All of the proposed sites lie within designated **Important Bird Areas** and provide habitat for species of conservation concern such as Cerulean Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Bachman's Sparrow. Contiguous forest and watersheds within the proposed areas provide habitat for such species as Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Kentucky Warbler. Grasslands within the proposed areas provide habitat for Northern Bobwhite and Henslow's Sparrow.

The Missouri Wilderness Coalition is seeking assistance from all interested Missourians to **contact your three federal legislators** (two U.S. Senators and Congressional Representative). The most important points to make are: 1) that you support the MWC proposal for the protection and designation of the seven wilderness areas 2) that you ask them to also support the proposal and to enact legislation toward that end, and 3) if you have any personal knowledge or experience of any of the areas, or of any wilderness in Missouri or elsewhere, it is always helpful to include that.

As St. Louis Audubon Society members and birders, it is important to make our voices heard in this important issue that will serve to further strengthen the protection of the unique biological diversity of these areas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Torrey Berger

SLAS NEEDS YOU!

I have just returned from an Audubon Leadership Workshop held on Maine Audubon's Hog Island. What a beautiful setting and educational and inspirational conference. At the conference, we talked about the "standard Audubon Chapter 100%/10%/1% profile." It goes like this: If you have 1000 members, you will have 100 members who actually participate or attend activities and programs, and you will have 10 members who do the bulk of work. SLAS, approaching 3000 members fits this profile to a tee.

Here is the PROBLEM with that: Over the last several years, SLAS has been very good at recognizing more and more opportunities to fulfill our mission. The demographics of our population, the concern about climate change and several other factors are leading to more and more people becoming interested in birds, birding, habitat and conservation. That is good news, but on the other hand, the thirty or so 1% of our members who do the work, are becoming overwhelmed.

The SOLUTION is fairly simple, although not easy, and goes like this: SLAS needs more of you to get involved with our business/mission of education, conservation and advocacy. We can use people who are willing to give one or two days a year to man a SLAS booth, those who want to help with mailing parties, those who have special skills for education programs or field trips, those who are willing to write or call government officials to advocate for conservation. Every year SLAS becomes better and better at what we do and we are a very effective organization. With the help of a "few good folks" we can greatly increase that effectiveness. If you think you can help in our mission, give me a call at 314-579-9227.

Torrey



American Kestrel submitted by Steve Sturyk

Ninth Annual Forest Park Kennedy Woods Honeysuckle Removal November 10

Mark your calendars! Help us with **hands-on bird habitat restoration** at Forest Park. This year we'll be tackling the 16 acre Successional Forest just west of the Jewel Box..

Date: Saturday, November 10

Time: Two shifts - 10:00 a.m. to noon and noon to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Meet on Carr Drive.

From I-40 exit at Hampton (North), then turn right on Wells Drive.

Follow the curve to the left, and take the left fork, which is Carr.

See www.treeswallow.com for a map and additional info.

Bring: Cutting tools (long-handled loppers, small saw), gloves.

Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

The Kennedy Woods Advisory Group

Contacts:

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Jerry Farm 314-644-4302 honeysuckle@treeswallow.com

Sue Gustafson 314-968-8128 smgustafson@juno.com

Randy Korotev 314-993-0055 rlk@levee.wustl.edu

SLAS Efforts to help our Migrant Birds on their Wintering Grounds: Part 1

By John Solodar

Last month's *Talefeathers* President's message highlighted the fact that SLAS has committed to "Helping Missouri Birds Vacation in Central/South America.." To this end we have recently taken some important steps. This article is the first in a series that will highlight the actions that we will take and the progress that we are making.

The SLAS board of directors recently established an International Conservation Committee whose purposes are to decide on projects worthy of our support, collaborate with others statewide who are working on winter habitat projects and to raise and distribute funds to support these projects. One member of our committee met with members of a statewide consortium of organizations, mostly from the Missouri Department of Conservation and various Audubon Societies, to formally organize, to pick Central American projects of prime interest, to spread the word about the importance of this work and to set some realistic fund raising goals for the first year.

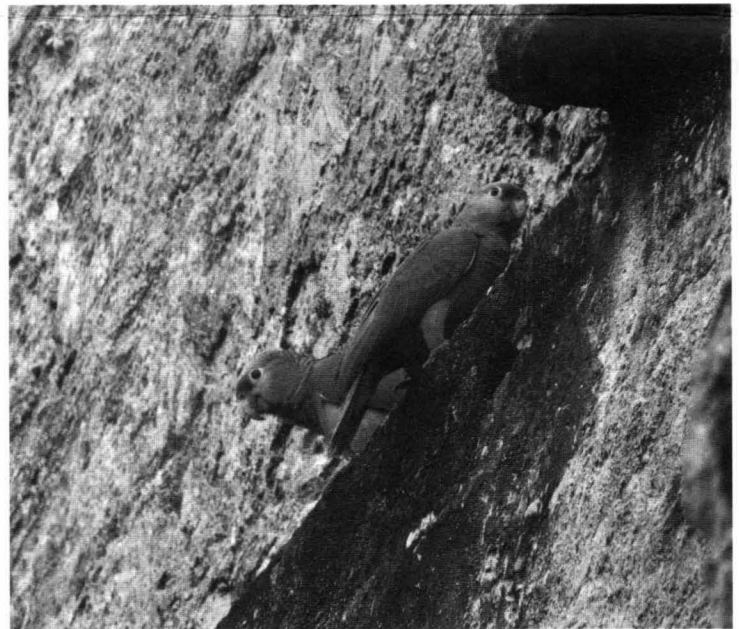
The SLAS committee met in early September and agreed to support two areas of work. The first of these is to fund field studies for up to two Central American graduate students. We will solicit names of worthy candidates for these scholarships from professors in Central America with whom Brad Jacobs, of MDC, has contacts. We intend to fund these scholarships, which cost only \$600 per year, by asking the SLAS board to increase the funding of our annual scholarship budget.

The second area of work is to support ongoing habitat acquisition and protection efforts in Central America. Brad Jacobs recommended, and the statewide consortium agreed, that the most important project to support right now is one involving Pico Bonito National Park and the nearby El Poligono in Honduras. The lodge at Pico Bonito NP has a list of birds that have been seen up to 1000 ft altitude. I urge you to visit their website http://www.picobonito.com/PB_files/bird.html to see for yourself the list of our birds that winter in just this part of the area. There are even more of our birds on the dry side of the mountains in the El Poligono area.

We intend to raise a minimum of \$2,500 from our membership for the Pico Bonito project this year. The first \$1,500 will be matched 1:1 by a group of three of our SLAS members which will give us a total of \$4,000 this year. MDC will match our money, and all money raised statewide as well as our scholarship money. Thus our \$4,000 to Pico Bonito could reach \$8,000 with MDC help and we hope to have the latter total matched again by the Honduran government or by the American Bird Conservancy.

John Solodar will serve as the conduit for donations to our program. We ask you to send tax deductible donations, made out to St. Louis Audubon Society with a notation that it's for International Conservation, to:

John Solodar
8135 Cornell Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63130.



Red-Lored Parrots submitted by Mike Grant.
See front page on Program on October 16.

Update on 10 Ways to Help the Environment

Last month I added several ways you can help the environment and I asked for more from you. I have received several e-mails with other's thoughts I will share with you.

Use less electricity. Line or air-dry your laundry. Not only will it smell better but you are helping to save coal from being burned. In the winter time you can use the shower stall to hang dry. If you must use the dryer use it after 6:00 p.m. as this is a savings too. Using electricity during peak hours make a big draw but by using the service after peak you can save.

Plant native. This is a really big savings as you can save water by not having to water native plants like you do the "imports." It helps to restore native habitat so it will help native critters that cannot adapt to the imports for living.

When running errands bundle several in one trip. Try to organize to make fewer trips per week.

Buy fresh Missouri and Illinois grown produce. By buying our own it saves fuel by not importing from California and it helps promote using seasonal foods. This too helps the environment as we eat what is in season.

Try using the farmer's market near you.

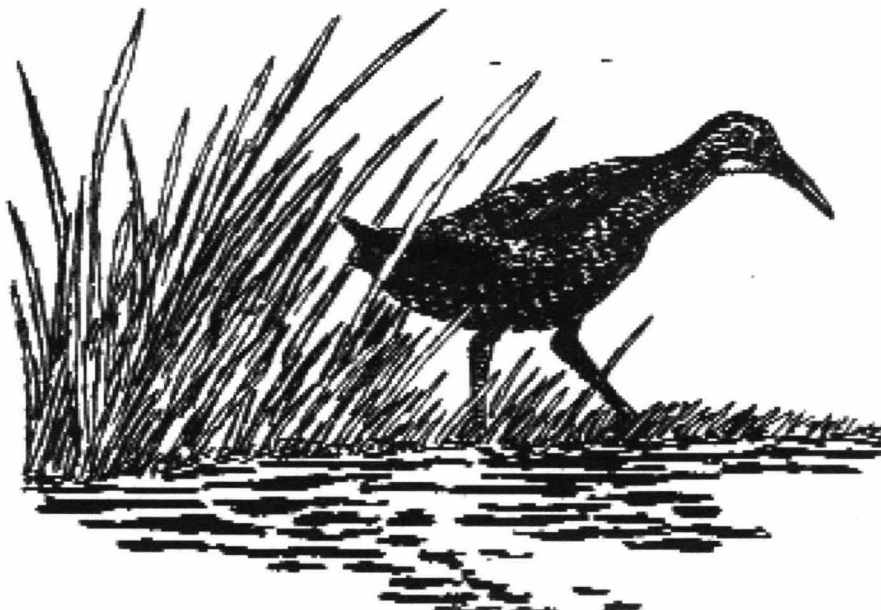
Buy into a cooperative farm in the area to get next year's produce.

Turn off the water as you are brushing your teeth. It isn't necessary and the water you save will be able to make it down to New Orleans.

Pass on your love of nature to anyone and everyone.

Volunteer next month for bush honeysuckle removal either in Forest Park or Webster Groves at Magner Woods.

Thanks to members for their contributions in finding ways we can change just a little to help a lot. Please e-mail me with more ways next month. Vicki Flier at RRVVCC@aol.com or 314-968-9166.



Tale Feathers

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St. Louis Audubon Society 2007 - 2008

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St. Louis Chapter ONLY Membership Application

By using this Application, your membership dues will go directly to the St. Louis Audubon Society Chapter. Your membership dues will support local issues that are important to you, programs at our general meetings, and *Tale Feathers*, our newsletter.

Chapter Only Dues are \$15.00 per year and cover all members living at the same address.

Please complete the form, enclose a check payable to SLAS, and mail to:
St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122.

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